



Kenneth A. Gibson  
MAYOR  
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07102  
4-2-73

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MAYOR GIBSON ASKS STATE TAKE OVER PROBE OF OFFICE MELEE

Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson has asked Gov. Brendan T. Byrne to order a full state investigation of the March 23 invasion of the Mayor's City Hall office by a crowd of North Ward protesters.

The Mayor told Byrne that the city administration "is not satisfied with the investigation and findings" of an Essex County grand jury, which refused to indict anyone in the incident.

A group of 75 persons, led by North Ward Councilman Anthony Carrino and State Sen. Anthony Imperiale, smashed open a locked door to the Mayor's office, attacked his bodyguard, and broke a desk pen set.

Gibson and the bodyguard had filed four separate criminal charges against Carrino, but the grand jury refused to return any indictments. Carrino still faces a Municipal Court trial on two nonindictable charges of simple assault.

In his letter to the Governor, Mayor Gibson wrote: "A mob, whether it is made up of citizens rallying to express a grievance or anyone else, cannot be allowed to force their way into offices of the government, destroy property of the government, threaten government employees and disrupt the government business. The governmental process cannot be allowed to be controlled by mob pressures."

The Mayor asked that the State Attorney General, William F. Hyland, supersede Essex County Prosecutor Joseph Lordi in handling all criminal matters resulting from the disturbance. He also asked Byrne to "direct the Attorney General to cause this incident to be investigated by a State Grand Jury to insure that this matter is given careful scrutiny unaffected by local considerations."

Mayor Gibson also sent Byrne a report on an investigation conducted by the city, including statements from witnesses. The contents were not disclosed.

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(Copy of letter attached)